

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 19, 2001 LB 180

hay country and I drove a straight rake and side delivery rake and things like that when she was out probably detasseling, but this is only going...this only lasts about two weeks or so and it's all over with, and it's a lot different now than it was then. Then they didn't have a machine come in there and top it off and get most of the stalk off. They just got to clean it up now. Then they had to pull every tassel out so it was a lot bigger job than it is now and I know that the stalks was tall and the kids was short but they...they'd bend the stalks over until they could do it. But I think this is a really a work ethic for these young kids and they look forward to it each summer to get some spending money so they can use it to buy clothes and different things like that. I cannot believe that we would be putting any...any age in the state statutes on something like this. I just think it should be left out and left up to the parents. But I will support Senator Kremer's amendment now but I think we're just trying to put an age limit on it which I don't think we should do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Janssen, on the Kremer amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. As long as we're telling detasseling stories about our childhood, I have a few to tell also. I remember when I was about 12 years old, I thought I was...my Dad was working me quite hard on the farm so I went and caught the detasseling truck one morning. It was Hoegemeyer Hybrids which are still in existence, one of the better seed corn companies in this state and in the Midwest. After a few days of working for Mr. Chris Hoegemeyer and Mr. Leonard Hoegemeyer, I found out that I really didn't have it that tough on my Dad's farm. So after about a week, I told Mr. Hoegemeyer that my Dad sure did need me back at the farm and I was missed there terribly and that I was sorry but I was going to have to resign my position as one of the detasselers on his crew. That...it is hard work, and let me tell you something, that was back in the days when the hybrid seed corn was not as short as it is now. It was a lot taller. The corn was...some was high and some was low. Since that time, though, the youngsters have...the working conditions have improved and these companies are not going to hire someone who is very, very short. They're